

SUMMARY OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Due to the length of the alternatives in the DEIS (207 pp.), the preferred alternative is here summarized into a series of program specific statements. For the full text of the preferred alternative (as well as a description of each of the other alternatives) see Chapter 2 of the DEIS.

BLM manages resources, land uses, and allocations by program or discipline. Each program submitted a list of proposed decisions from one or more of the six decision types described above. Because some programs are charged with conservation of resources, while others administer or regulate resource uses, decisions that affect more than one program are repeated (paraphrased) under each discipline affected. For example, the decision to not authorize grazing of sheep or goats within nine miles of desert bighorn sheep habitat appears in both the Livestock Grazing section (MA-GM-01) and the Fish and Wildlife section (MA-WF-26) since the decision restricts land use practices to benefit a resource. For the purposes of this summary, decisions are shown once only, under the program that would benefit from its implementation.

Management Units: Management units are geographic areas with similar resource management goals. The preferred alternative includes identification of four management units; Community, Corridors, Backroads, and Outback to make consistent land use plan decisions in specific geographic areas with similar landscapes, resources, and resource uses in the Planning Area. The polygons that outline the location of the four management units are identical to those that identify the location of travel management areas (TMAs). TMAs, however, are land use allocations that describe the areas allocated for varying types of access, while management units are not land use allocations or decisions. Because TMAs are land use plan decisions, they are discussed below under Trails and Travel Management.

Facilities or projects associated with valid, existing rights and permitted uses could occur in any management unit, though the influence they have on the landscape character may vary greatly. Facilities include, but are not limited to: transmission lines, communications facilities, or kiosks. Projects could include, but are not limited to: corrals, catchments, pipelines, fences, wells, and troughs.

Community Management Unit: BLM lands within the Community Management Unit would provide room for community growth and development. These lands would also offer the widest variety of recreation opportunities, such as viewing scenery and activities; riding motorcycles/OHVs; vehicle touring; flying aircraft; hiking and walking; bicycling; horseback riding; camping; picnicking; hunting; studying nature; using interpretive services; and attending organized events. These activities, however, would not be to the detriment or exclusion of the protection of resources upon which the natural environment and recreation experiences depend. Lands within the Community Management Unit may also provide resources, such as fuelwood and mineral materials, access to permitted commercial and recreational activities, and scenic backdrops or settings for communities. Moderate to substantial modifications to the landscape character would be allowed, but not to the exclusion of protecting resources.

Corridors Management Unit: Lands within the Corridors Management Unit occur along major travel routes, providing access to the Back Roads and Outback management units. They would offer a variety of recreation opportunities, such as viewing scenery, riding motorcycles/OHVs, vehicle touring, flying aircraft, hiking and walking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, hunting, studying nature, using interpretive services, and participating in compatible organized events. These areas would also provide the most opportunities for short-term or day-use recreation activities related to vehicle touring. Outside the Monuments, these lands may also provide resources, such as fuelwood and mineral materials, and access to permitted commercial and recreational activities. The Corridors Management Unit is characterized by predominantly natural-appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds and uses of others. Some modifications to the landscape could occur, but not to the exclusion of the protection of visual, natural, and cultural resources and uses.

Back Roads Management Unit: Lands within the Back Roads Management Unit provide a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities such as viewing scenery, riding motorcycles/OHVs, vehicle touring, flying aircraft, hiking and walking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, hunting, studying nature, using interpretive services, and participating in compatible organized events. These lands may also provide resources such as fuelwood and

mineral materials for use on the Arizona Strip FO, and access to permitted commercial activities and to lands in the Outback Management Unit. Back Roads Management Unit would be characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing environments of moderate to large size with moderate probabilities of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of other people. Some modifications to the landscape could be expected, but would be tempered by the need to protect important resources.

Outback Management Unit: Lands within the Outback Management Unit would provide opportunities for undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed recreation opportunities such as viewing scenery, hiking and walking, horseback riding, backpacking, hunting, studying nature, canyoneering, and rock climbing. The Outback Management Unit would be characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing environments of moderate to large size. The lowest level of landscape modifications would be expected compared to the other management units. Remote settings, natural landscapes, solitude, and opportunities for primitive recreation would be minimally impacted by human activity.

Air, Water, and Soils: DFCs include meeting applicable air and water quality standards and having functional riparian areas that meet Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health (Standard #2). Management actions include minimizing impacts to air and water quality, filing for water rights on available sources (including instream flows), ensuring availability of water resources, applying stipulations to surface disturbing and reclamation activities, restoring floodplains and wetlands, and increasing management of watersheds in condition class 4. Watersheds considered high priority for assessment, treatments and/or restrictions on use to reduce erosion include: Upper Lang's Run, Black Rock Mountain, and Parashant on the Parashant; all watersheds on the Vermilion; and Upper Lang's Run, Black Rock Mountain, Upper Parashant, Lower Hurricane Valley, Fort Pearce Salinity Area, Clayhole Flood Control Structures Area, and Wild Band Valley on the ASFO.

Paleontological Resources: DFCs include protection of paleontological, geological, and cave and karst resources. Allocations include classification of areas for their potential to contain vertebrate fossils. Management actions include identifying, classifying, and protecting these resources, while mitigating impacts to them. Inventories for paleontological and cave and karst resources would continue.

Fire and Fuels Management: DFCs include maintaining appropriate fire return intervals, maintaining fuels at non-hazardous levels in wildland urban interfaces, and maintaining vegetative communities within the natural range of variation. Allocations include classification of areas suitable for wildland fire use (wild fire managed for resource benefits). Appropriate management response (AMR) would be used for managing wildland fires. Management actions include authorizing use of minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST), prescribed fire, and fire use in designated and proposed wilderness. Conservation measures for special status species would be used for fire suppression and management within their habitats. Fire suppression tactics would favor minimum impact tools, however, use of heavy equipment could be authorized with BLM District Manager or NPS Park Superintendent approval.

Vegetation Management: DFCs include all watersheds meeting Standards for Rangeland Health, providing a mosaic of native perennial and non-invasive annual vegetative communities, protecting or enhancing ecological processes and functions, controlling or eliminating invasive plants, and maintaining vegetative communities within the natural range of variation. Management actions include authorizing use of minimum tool, prescribed fire, and fire use in designated and proposed wilderness. Restoration and vegetation treatment projects could be authorized to meet DFCs where sensitive resources are protected. Treatment methods and tools could include mechanical, chemical, biological, or fire. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan. Use of native species would be emphasized, though non-intrusive, non-native plants could be used to restore degraded areas where criteria for their use are met. No areas would be allocated for sustained yield timber harvest. Gathering of dead and downed wood for campfires would be authorized in areas where campfires are permitted. The sale, collection, or use of vegetative materials would require a permit on the Parashant and ASFO. No vegetative material sales would be authorized on the Vermilion. Collection of listed, proposed, or candidate plant species would not be authorized. Limited harvest of posts/poles could be authorized for on-site administrative purposes. Pinyon pine nuts could be harvested for non-commercial use. Salvage of vegetation that would otherwise be lost to surface disturbing activities could be authorized. Treatment of noxious weed infestations would continue. Certified weed-free feed, mulch, and seed would be required for permitted uses. Ecological

site inventories would be completed to determine site potentials and ecological conditions. Site-specific desired plant community (DPC) objectives would continue, consistent with ecological site potential.

Vegetation Management - Riparian: All riparian communities would be at or moving towards proper functioning condition. Invasive exotics would be reduced or eliminated. Riparian areas would be managed for a mixture of appropriate woody and herbaceous vegetation. Habitat conditions would favor common species such as rush, cottonwood, willow, and yellow-breasted chat, as well as rare species such as SW willow flycatcher, common black hawk, Lucy's warbler, and speckled dace. Floodplain occupancy and development would be avoided and base floodplain (100-year) would be retained or protected.

Non-functional riparian areas and those functioning at risk would receive priority for restoration with an appropriate mixture of woody and herbaceous vegetation. Treatment methods could include wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, chemical, mechanical, and biological means. No more than 100 BLM acres and 20 NPS acres in the Parashant, 1,200 acres in the Vermilion, or 5,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation up to 37 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. No post-fire rehabilitation is proposed for the Parashant or Vermilion. Treatments would not be authorized in occupied, SW willow flycatcher habitat unless such treatments would provide long-term benefits to the species or their habitat, would reduce fire frequency or intensity, or would provide replacement habitat of a higher quality than that removed. Specific treatment areas are identified below.

The functions and processes of **Pakoon Springs** would be restored to a combination of naturally appearing pond and flowing water habitats. Relict leopard frogs, Grand Wash springsnails, or other special status species would be re-introduced to the area provided suitable habitat exists after restoration.

The historic landscape at **Tassi Ranch and Springs** would be managed so that it maintains historic and ecological integrity. The irrigation system would be maintained, allowing for preservation of Grand Wash Springsnail, an endemic species. Tassi Springs would be considered for use as an introduction site for relict leopard frog. The genetic integrity of cottonwood trees at Tassi Springs would continue to be maintained. The Tassi Ranch cultural landscape would be nominated for listing on the NRHP.

Grazing and all associated facilities in the **Cane Spring** Pasture of the Mud and Cane allotment would be managed to complement maintenance of riparian wildlife habitat, the historic and pre-historic resources, and future recreation use. A site management plan for the spring, riparian area, and cultural resources would be prepared that would include the development and implementation of interpretation to provide information on the native riparian vegetation and to emphasize the function of Mojave Desert springs for wildlife, indigenous people, and the historic and current ranching activity; interpretive trail and facility development to house the interpretive materials and enhance visitor experience, including picnicking; and adequate protection (barriers, etc.) to ensure restoration efforts and cultural resources are not adversely impacted by visitors.

Non-motorized hand tools would be used to cut invasive plants such as tamarisk and Russian olive along the **Paria River** for the purpose of restoring ecological conditions and functions and reducing fuel hazards. Prescribed fire would be used on large patches of invasive plants, and helicopters could be used. Hand application of herbicides would be used in addition to burning and/or cutting to remove invasive species. Using hand tools, the BLM would construct minimal control lines that would be rehabilitated upon completion of burning. The BLM would hand seed the area as needed.

Mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment methods would be used to remove invasive plants such as tamarisk and Russian olive along the **Virgin River** outside of designated wilderness for the purpose of restoring ecological conditions and functions and reducing fuel hazards. Within the Beaver Dam Wilderness Area, non-motorized hand tools (such as clippers, axes and pulaskis) would be used to cut and remove these invasive plants.

Vegetation Management – Ponderosa Pine: Ponderosa pine forests would include no net loss of habitat, retention of essential habitat components, resilience, and patches of old and/or large trees and snags would be retained. Stands of ponderosa pine would be managed for a balanced mosaic between tree, shrub, and perennial grass cover to support Merriam's turkey, Kaibab squirrel, and mule deer. The mosaics would include stands of old-growth ponderosa; a component of Gambel oak with grass and forb understory; large openings of grasses, forbs, and shrubs; and areas of sparse to dense tree canopy cover with an understory of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Habitat conditions would favor common endemic plant and animal communities. Restoration and/or vegetation treatments could be conducted to restore fire regimes, increase ground cover of native grasses, forbs and shrubs, and remove invasive non-native species. Treatment methods could include wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, chemical, mechanical, and biological means. Minimum impact restoration techniques would be used in designated or proposed wilderness. No more than 9,200 BLM acres and 7,000 NPS acres in the Parashant, and 3,800 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 3,104 acres on the Parashant, and up to 301 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Ponderosa pine research treatments would be completed at **Mt. Trumbull**. BLM would use prescribed fire and/or fire use on up to 6,000 acres within the Mt. Trumbull Wilderness over the next 20 years for the purpose of restoring ecological conditions and functions and reducing fuel hazards. Treatment preference would be to use a combination of wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, mechanical, or chemical methods and minimum tool requirement. BLM would limit prescribed burning to appropriate conditions in order to decrease the likelihood of crown fires. BLM could use appropriate tools to construct minimal control lines, including the removal of trees and brush, and would rehabilitate control lines. BLM would apply native seed manually and/or aurally. BLM would protect old-growth trees, snags, downed logs, and other important features by raking around their bases, constructing interior control lines, and using minimum tools to fell and buck small-diameter trees and brush that constitute ladder fuels.

Vegetation Management - Sagebrush: Sagebrush stands would include no net loss of habitat; would have a balance between shrubs, native perennial grasses, and forbs; would include small grassy openings and large continuous blocks; and would have shrub canopy cover less than 25%. Habitat conditions would favor sage dependent wildlife species such as vesper, lark, Brewer's, sage, and black-throated sparrows, gray flycatchers, loggerhead shrikes, sage thrashers, long-billed curlews, and burrowing owls. Areas where sagebrush canopy cover exceeds 20%, perennial grasses and forbs are less than 5%, and bare ground exceeds 40% would receive priority for restoration or treatment. Treatment methods would favor wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, and chemical means, though other methods could be used. No more than 25,000 BLM acres in the Parashant, 100,000 acres in the Vermilion, and 200,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 21,000 acres on the Parashant, and up to 19,168 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Pinyon-Juniper: Pinyon-juniper woodlands would be healthy and diverse mosaics of different height and age classes with a thriving understory with a balance between grasses, shrubs, and trees. Ladder fuels and downed woody debris would be limited or absent. Old growth trees would be present. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plants and animals such as pinyon jay, sharp-shinned and northern goshawk, Coopers hawk, American kestrel, red tail hawk, and mule deer. Areas where juniper canopy cover exceeds 40%, perennial grasses and forbs are less than 5%, and bare ground exceeds 50% would receive priority for restoration or treatment. Treatment methods would favor wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, mechanical, and chemical means, though other methods could be used. No more than 51,000 BLM acres and 17,00 NPS acres in the Parashant, 50,000 acres in the Vermilion, and 50,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 9,797 acres on the Parashant, up to 34 acres on the Vermilion, and up to 1,421 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Mojave Desert: There would be no net loss of Mojave desert habitat. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plant communities such as black brush, Joshua tree, Mohave yucca, and cacti, as well as endemic wildlife species such as desert tortoise, chuckwalla, and desert bighorn sheep. Areas where desert tortoise habitat has been burned and/or converted to invasive annual grass communities would receive priority for restoration or treatment. Treatment methods would favor chemical means. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatment methods would only be authorized on BLM lands where doing so would benefit desert tortoise or their habitat, reduce invasive plant species, reduce fire frequency, or as a necessary component of research. No more than 8,500 BLM acres in the Parashant, and 10,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 22,899 acres on the Parashant, and up to 3,794 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Mojave-Great Basin Transition: There would be no net loss of this Transition habitat. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plant communities such as black brush, Joshua tree, Mohave yucca, and cacti, as well as endemic wildlife species such as desert tortoise, chuckwalla, and desert bighorn sheep. Areas where desert tortoise habitat has been burned and/or converted to invasive annual grass communities would receive priority for restoration or treatment. Treatment methods would favor chemical means. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatment methods would only be authorized on BLM lands where doing so would benefit desert tortoise or their habitat, reduce invasive plant species, reduce fire frequency, or as a necessary component of research. No more than 7,600 BLM acres in the Parashant, and 30,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 48,044 acres on the Parashant, and up to 3,561 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Colorado Plateau Transition: There would be no net loss of this Transition habitat. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plant communities such as four-wing saltbush, shadscale, and black brush, as well as endemic wildlife species such as House Rock valley chisel-toothed kangaroo rat, peregrine falcon, and desert bighorn sheep. No treatment priority areas were defined. Treatment methods could include wildland fire, fire use, prescribed fire, chemical, mechanical, and biological means. No more than 30,000 acres on the Vermilion, and 30,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 17 acres on the Vermilion, and up to 1 acre on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Interior Chaparral: Interior chaparral would be healthy and diverse mosaics of different height and age class vegetation, particularly shrubs. There would be no net loss of habitat in this ecological zone. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plants such as manzanita, silk tassel, and live oak, as well as endemic animals such as black-shinned sparrow and mule deer. Treatment objectives would focus on providing openings for shrub regeneration and wildlife access for cover and browse, as well as exclusion of invasive non-native plants. Treatment methods would favor mechanical and chemical means, though other methods could be used. No more than 1,500 BLM acres on the Parashant, and 5,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 877 acres on the Parashant and up to 846 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Vegetation Management – Plains-Grassland: Plains-Grassland communities would be healthy and diverse mosaics of different height and age classes of vegetation. Habitat conditions would favor endemic plants such as Galleta, sand dropseed, Indian ricegrass, blue and black grama, needle and thread grass, four-wing saltbush, shadscale, winterfat, and Mormon tea, as well as and endemic animals such as Cassin's and Brewer's sparrow, and pronghorn antelope. Habitat would include 50% vegetative cover, species composition of 40-60% grasses, 10-30% forbs, and 5-20% palatable browse for pronghorn. Species diversity would include 5-10 native grass species, 20-40 native forb species, and 5-10 native shrubs. Shrub height would be 15-24" for pronghorn fawning cover. Treatment emphasis would be to reduce the proliferation of non-indigenous annual plants and provide fawning cover for pronghorn antelope. Areas

where grasses and forbs are less than 5% and bare ground exceeds 45% would receive priority for restoration or treatment. Treatment methods would favor mechanical, chemical, or biological means, though other methods could be used. No more than 110 BLM acres in the Parashant, 10,000 acres on the Vermilion, and 50,000 acres in the ASFO would be treated over the life of this plan. Post-fire rehabilitation of up to 4,496 acres in the Vermilion, and up to 4,496 acres on the ASFO is anticipated, though additional rehabilitation could be implemented. Specific treatment areas are not identified in the plan.

Fish and Wildlife: Fish and wildlife DFCs include having functional ecological systems within the range of natural variability; diverse, healthy, and self-sustaining populations of native species; sufficient forage, water, and cover to support these diverse populations; safe access to water for wildlife; wildlife passable fencing; habitat connectivity with minimal fragmentation; balanced predator and prey relationships; and priority wildlife species (special status species, migratory birds, game animals and birds, kit fox, gray fox, and long-tailed weasels) would be at or near maximum sustainable population levels. Habitat conditions would be meeting Vegetation Management DFCs. For BLM lands, wildlife decisions and actions would be implemented through the development and implementation of three interdisciplinary wildlife HMPs. On NPS lands, wildlife decisions and actions would be guided by a cooperative planning process focusing on ecosystem management that perpetuates a natural distribution of native wildlife in a mosaic of their associated habitats within a normal range of variability.

Wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) were allocated in the Parashant (Grand Wash Cliffs and Virgin Mountains for desert bighorn sheep and Trumbull-Logan for Kaibab squirrels), the Vermilion (Vermilion Cliffs for desert bighorn sheep), and the ASFO (Virgin Mountains, Hurricane Cliffs, and Lower Kanab Creek for desert bighorn sheep). Priority wildlife species and habitats (all aquatic and riparian areas, ponderosa pine, crucial mule deer winter range, bighorn sheep habitat areas, and House Rock Valley) are identified. Management actions that apply to priority wildlife and habitats include increased emphasis on protection of the species; restoration and vegetation treatments of degraded areas; increased consideration during NEPA; ability to modify, mitigate, or restrict actions to minimize effects to the species; etc. Grazing by other than cattle or horses would not be authorized within 9 miles of bighorn sheep WHAs.

Game animals would be managed for healthy, self-sustaining populations in accordance with population goals and objectives established in the AGFD Strategic Plan for the species. BLM would identify and map pronghorn fawning areas in the Planning Area. BLM would implement actions to increase shrub height and density to enhance fawning cover, consistent with site potential. Migratory bird populations would be monitored in cooperation with AGFD. Significant waterfowl habitat sites would be inventoried. Standardized surveys would be used to inventory breeding bird populations and evaluate existing habitat.

Recreational collecting of animal parts would be allowed outside of ecologically sensitive areas (special status species habitats, ACECs, and priority habitats). Reintroductions and augmentations of pronghorn, mule deer, bighorn sheep, turkey, Kaibab squirrel, and special status species could be authorized. Wildlife water developments could be constructed, maintained, and/or modified. Escape ramps would continue to be used at developed waters. Control of exotic wildlife species would continue. Planning Areas would be closed to members of the pig family (Suidae). The following areas would be managed as watchable wildlife areas: Tassi, Cane, and Pakoon Springs, and Oak Grove in the Parashant; the Condor viewing site in the Vermilion; Black Rock, Beaver Dam Confluence, Lime Kiln Pass, the Buckskin Mountains, and House Rock Valley on the ASFO.

Special Status Species: DFCs include that all special status species (SSS) would be recovered and/or would be at stable, self-sustaining levels. There would be no net loss of habitat. Discretionary activities would not contribute to the need to list species. The Planning Area would continue to serve as a contiguous block of habitat for SSS. Habitat connectivity would be maintained with minimal fragmentation. Instream flows would be sufficient to maintain healthy native fish populations. Species extirpated from the Planning Areas would be reintroduced and recovered. Potential roosting and nesting sites for raptors would be abundant, as would prey populations. Habitat conditions would be meeting Vegetation Management DFCs. Riparian habitats would be in proper functioning condition and would provide suitable habitat for riparian dependent species.

Vegetative habitat areas (VHAs) were allocated on the ASFO (Twist Hills and Clayhole for Fickeisen plains cactus and Buckskin for Gierisch mallow). All desert tortoise habitat within the Parashant would be managed as the Pakoon WHA. Management actions that apply to WHAs and VHAs include increased emphasis on protection of the species; increased consideration during NEPA; ability to modify, mitigate, postpone, or restrict actions to minimize effects to the species; etc. Species-specific conservation measures would apply to management of these and all other areas of occupied and unoccupied habitat for SSS.

Reintroductions and augmentations of desert tortoise; chuckwalla; banded gila monster; northern, lowland, and/or relict leopard frogs; endemic springsnails; woundfin minnow; Virgin River chub; Virgin spinedace; desert and/or flannelmouth sucker; California condor; Yuma clapper rail; yellow-billed cuckoo; SW willow flycatcher; ferruginous hawk; northern goshawk; burrowing owl; white-faced ibis; and House Rock Valley chisel-toothed kangaroo rat could be authorized. Introductions of non-endemic SSS native to the region could be authorized on BLM lands. BLM and NPS would continue active management programs to inventory, monitor, restore, and maintain listed species and their habitats; control detrimental non-natives; minimize habitat loss and fragmentation; and re-establish extirpated populations. Actions authorized, as well as those not specifically authorized or permitted, that lead to adverse affects to listed, proposed, or candidate species, would be reviewed and addressed in a timely manner to minimize adverse affects. Authorized actions would be subject to application of species specific conservation measures. SSS habitat surveys would continue to be required prior to implementation of actions within their habitats. BLM and NPS may modify, limit, or restrict public land uses that lead to adverse affects to listed, proposed, or candidate species. These apply to fire and vegetation management, livestock grazing, recreational activities, lands and realty actions, and mineral development. Special mitigation would be required in mining plans of operation to avoid impacts to special status species or proposed or designated critical habitat. Education efforts would continue to increase public awareness of SSS issues and concerns.

BLM would not transfer out of federal ownership any designated or proposed critical habitat, except where the new owner could protect the species equally well. BLM would not transfer out of federal ownership lands supporting listed or proposed species if doing so would be inconsistent with recovery. BLM would not transfer out of federal ownership lands supporting candidate species if doing so would contribute to the need to list the species. Unauthorized airstrips or dumpsites in special status species habitat would be given high priority for removal and cleanup.

Following completion of route inventory and evaluation, roads/routes causing or contributing to mortality of individuals of listed species or degradation of their habitat would be identified. Where practical, such roads/routes would be closed and signed. Where closing such roads would not be practical, seasonal restrictions or other mitigation would be developed to minimize adverse effects to special status species. Where necessary, fences, culverts or other physical barriers would be installed to protect special status species. Mineral leasing would include notification to potential lessees of presence or potential for occurrence of special status species within a parcel proposed for leasing. Lessees would also be advised of additional stipulations or other restrictions that would apply at the APD stage. New mineral material sites would not be authorized in listed species ACECs. Existing material sites would be evaluated for retention.

Special Status Species ACEC/DWMA Management: Public ownership in ACECs/DWMAs would be retained. Acquisition of non-federal lands within the ACECs/DWMAs would be a priority. New land use authorizations would only be allowed in listed species habitat when no reasonable alternative exists and impacts to the species can be mitigated. New rights-of-way would be routed away from high-density population areas of listed species. New roads and upgrading of existing roads would be authorized only a temporary basis or when beneficial for resources. Vegetation diversity would be maintained or improved in accordance with ecosite guides. ACECs/DWMAs would be closed to all vegetative product sales. ACECs designated for the protection of plants would be closed to the collection of vegetative materials. Collection of dead and down wood would be allowed for personal campfire use only, subject to fire restrictions. OHV restrictions would apply. SSS plant ACEC's would be closed to OHVs. Motorized and

mechanized vehicle use in ACECs with cultural or listed species values would be limited to designated or existing roads or trails.

The following management applies to ACECs, but not the Pakoon DWMA: ACECs would remain open to locatable mineral exploration and development. A Mining Plan of Operation with special mitigation measures would be required. ACECs would remain open to leasable mineral exploration and development with special mitigation. No new mineral material disposal sites would be authorized in ACECs. Material site rights-of-way in ACECs would not be authorized or renewed.

Special Status Species – Special Status Plants: Use restrictions could be developed to minimize or eliminate trampling and/or crushing of special status plants. Recreational activities that degrade special status plant habitats would be modified or relocated. Use of herbicides could be limited or eliminated in areas where special status plants could be affected. Mechanical vegetation treatment would not be authorized in special status plant habitat, unless doing so would provide benefits to the species.

Four existing ACECs for protection of the threatened Siler pincushion cactus would be modified as follows: **Johnson Spring ACEC** (2,058 acres), **Lost Spring Mountain ACEC** (17,743 acres), **Moonshine Ridge ACEC** (9,231 acres), **Fort Pearce ACEC** (5,498 acres), for a total of 34,530 acres. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply to these four ACECs: No new corrals or water developments would be authorized or constructed within the ACEC boundary. The feasibility of relocating existing corrals or water developments outside the ACEC boundary would be considered. The ACEC would be closed to OHV travel. Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to existing roads and trails until route designation is complete (except that in the Fort Pearce ACEC, some washes and trails where Siler cactus has not been found are open for the Rhino Rally motorcycle race. The Johnson Spring, Lost Spring Mountain, and Moonshine Ridge ACECs would be inventoried for cultural resources.

The **Marble Canyon ACEC** would be maintained for the protection of the endangered Brady pincushion cactus at 9,852 acres in House Rock Valley. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to existing roads and trails until route designation is complete. Existing material sites would be evaluated for retention. The ACEC plan would be updated to insure that management of Brady pincushion cactus is consistent with the recovery plan. Rock or similar barriers to off-road vehicle travel would be installed in areas where cacti are adjacent to canyon rim overlooks.

The **Lone Butte ACEC** for protection of the threatened Jones cycladenia would be designated as 1,900 acres. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: The ACEC would be closed to OHV travel. The Lone Butte ACEC would be inventoried for cultural resources.

The **Black Knolls ACEC** for protection of the endangered Holmgren milkvetch would be designated as 80 acres. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: The ACEC would be closed to OHV travel.

The **Coyote Valley ACEC** for protection of the endangered Paradine plains cactus would be designated as 776 acres. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply:

Special Status Species – Desert Tortoise: Authorized actions that may result in adverse effects to desert tortoises would require implementation of project stipulations. Mechanical vegetation treatment would not be authorized in desert tortoise habitat, unless doing so would benefit the species. Wild horses and burros would not be authorized on NPS and BLM lands in the Planning Area. Competitive speed events would be prohibited and organized non-speed events would be restricted to designated routes in desert tortoise habitat. Activities that could adversely affect desert tortoise would be limited to the tortoise inactive period (October 15 to March 15). Reclamation would be required for activities that result in loss or degradation of tortoise habitat. Compensation may be required to mitigate residual impacts from authorized actions in desert tortoise habitat. Utility lines on BLM lands would be designed, located, and constructed so as to

avoid attracting desert tortoise predators. No translocations of desert tortoises from private to public lands would occur without discussions with the Service.

The **Pakoon ACEC** for protection of the threatened desert tortoise and Mojave Desert Ecological Zone values would be revoked. The same 76,014-acre area would continue to be managed for protection of desert tortoise as the **Pakoon DWMA**. In addition to the standard ACEC/DWMA management prescriptions, the following apply: Activities on Lake Mead NRA and on public lands in Nevada managed by the ASDO would be managed in accordance with DWMA prescriptions. Habitat restoration would not include planting or seeding of nonnative plants. Desert tortoise ACECs would be closed to live vegetation harvest, except salvage in areas where surface disturbance has been authorized. All of the Tassi Allotment and portions of the Pakoon, Pakoon Springs, and Mosby-Nay Allotments within the Pakoon DWMA would be unavailable for livestock grazing. Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails. New paved roads would not be authorized in the Pakoon DWMA/WHA Temporary upgrading of existing roads and construction of new unpaved roads could be authorized only where beneficial to desert tortoise. Maintenance of existing roads would be authorized, with non-emergency maintenance deferred to the tortoise inactive period. Speed limits for vehicles associated with agency-authorized projects would be at or below 40 mph in tortoise habitat during the active season.

The **Beaver Dam Slope ACEC** and **Virgin Slope ACEC** for protection of threatened desert tortoise and Mojave Desert Ecological Zone values would be enlarged to 51,984 acres and 40,206 acres respectively. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: Proposed actions would be evaluated to ensure they do not contribute to the proliferation of natural predators within desert tortoise habitat. Habitat restoration would not include planting or seeding of nonnative plants. Desert tortoise ACECs would be closed to live vegetation harvest, except salvage in areas where surface disturbance has been authorized.

Full fire suppression activities would be initiated in desert habitat, with minimal surface disturbance. Burning out of unburned fingers and islands of desert tortoise habitat would not be permitted. Use of foam or fugitive retardant would be authorized in desert tortoise habitat. Camps, staging areas, and helispots would be surveyed for desert tortoises prior to use whenever feasible and located in previously disturbed areas whenever practicable.

No new land use authorizations would be allowed within the desert tortoise ACECs, except within designated ROW corridors/sites and existing right of way use areas. The BLM would not authorize any military maneuvers within special status species ACECs.

Seasonal grazing only would be authorized in the Beaver Dam Slope and Virgin Slope ACECs from October 15 - March 15 of each year. Grazing utilization levels would be set at 45% of current year's growth on allotments in desert tortoise habitat.

Desert tortoise ACECs would remain open to fluid mineral leasing subject to seasonal restrictions and a waivable no surface occupancy stipulation (WNSO). Special mitigation would be required in mining plans of operation to avoid impacts to desert tortoise within the desert tortoise ACECs. Non-commercial hand collection of rocks within 100 feet of designated open roads would be permitted in desert tortoise ACECs.

Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails. New paved roads would not be authorized in the Pakoon DWMA/WHA, Beaver Dam Slope ACEC, or Virgin Slope ACEC. Temporary upgrading of existing roads and construction of new unpaved roads in these areas could be authorized only on BLM lands where beneficial to desert tortoise. Maintenance of existing roads would be authorized, with non-emergency maintenance deferred to the tortoise inactive period. Speed limits for vehicles associated with agency-authorized projects would be at or below 40 mph in tortoise habitat during the active season. A signing and fencing plan would be developed. Signing and fencing would occur as funding allows.

The BLM would cooperate on a case-by-case basis to relocate tortoises from previously conveyed federal lands within the Planning Area that are slated for development to public lands. No translocations of desert

tortoises from private to public lands would occur without completion of a Section 7 consultation or Section 10 (a) habitat conservation plan.

The **Virgin River ACEC** for protection of desert tortoise and Virgin River fishes would be modified to include the 100-year floodplain. This decision eliminates desert tortoise habitat from the ACEC.

Special Status Species – Virgin River Fishes: The **Virgin River ACEC** would be modified to include only the 100-year floodplain (approx. 2,063 acres). Management of the ACEC would emphasize Virgin River fishes and riparian dependent bird species such as SW willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, and yellow-billed cuckoo. The ACEC would not be managed for desert tortoises as no desert tortoise habitat would be included in the ACEC.

In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: Fire and vegetation management within the ACEC would include conservation measures for native fishes and riparian dependent birds. Land exchanges or disposals would be managed so that future developments would not adversely affect flows in the Virgin River. Riparian areas would be maintained in proper functioning condition. Actions that degrade riparian habitat or reduce the potential of the area to support riparian vegetation would be modified, restricted, or prohibited. The ACEC would be closed to OHV travel. Mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment methods would be used to remove invasive plants such as tamarisk and Russian olive for the purpose of restoring ecological conditions and functions and reducing fuel hazards. Within the Beaver Dam Wilderness Area, non-motorized hand tools (such as clippers, axes and pulaskis) would be used to cut and remove these invasive plants. The ACEC would be signed and fenced as funding allows.

BLM would assist in locating and constructing non-native fish barriers and other efforts to reduce or eradicate non-native fish populations. Instream flow water rights would be acquired and protected. BLM would assist the Recovery Team in monitoring efforts for native Virgin River fish populations.

BLM would continue to survey for SW willow flycatchers, Yuma clapper rail, and other special status riparian species. Habitat mapping would continue for these species. Suitable SW willow flycatcher habitat would be managed so that its suitable characteristics are not eliminated or degraded. Potential flycatcher habitat would be managed to allow natural regeneration into suitable habitat as rapidly as possible. Livestock grazing would continue to be limited on pastures within or adjacent to the ACEC (Beaver Dam Confluence is closed year round; Littlefield Community, Beaver Dam Slope, and Highway and Cedar Wash Allotments would be closed from March 15 to October 15; River Pasture of the Lambing Allotment would be closed during the growing season (bud break to leaf drop) and no later than April 15). [Note that the DEIS has a discrepancy here between grazing season of use restrictions for the Lambing Allotment as described under Grazing Management (MA-GM-11) and Special Status Species (MA-TE-80). The preferred alternative is as described in MA-GM-11.] Maximum utilization limits of 35% on key species would be implemented for suitable habitat on the Lambing Allotment. Stream bank alteration due to recreational activities and livestock grazing within the Virgin River Corridor ACEC would be limited to 25% annually. Areas where concentrations of brown-headed cowbirds occur on public lands in the Planning Area would be evaluated for ways to reduce cowbird concentration areas found.

Special Status Species – Special Status Raptors: BLM and NPS would continue to identify bald eagle roost locations. Authorized or permitted activities within 0.5 miles of an active bald eagle wintering roost could be deferred or otherwise restricted. Canyons and forests with the potential to support Mexican spotted owl would be managed for maintenance or enhancement of the habitat attributes that make them suitable. Restoration of California condor into historic habitats would continue. The population objective for California condors would be to maintain a self-sustaining population of at least 150 individuals with at least 15 breeding pairs. Sources of condor lead contamination would be identified, reduced, or eliminated where possible. Within the 10(j) area, the BLM would not restrict authorized and/or permitted activities solely for the benefit of California condors. Administrative or other actions implemented by the BLM could be subject to additional stipulations and conservation measures.

Actions that might adversely affect nesting peregrine falcons between March 1 and August 1 could be subject to stipulations, mitigation, or may not be approved. Burrowing owl populations on the ASFO would be augmented in the St. George Basin, Clayhole Valley, Lower Hurricane Valley, and the area east of Kanab Creek. No burrowing owl augmentations would occur on the Parashant due to potential conflicts with desert tortoise. The BLM and NPS would continue to survey and/or monitor potential habitat for special status raptors and cooperate and assist with post-delisting monitoring efforts for peregrine falcon within the Planning Area.

Special Status Species – Riparian Dependent Birds: Suitable flycatcher habitat would be managed so that its suitable characteristics are not eliminated or degraded. Potential flycatcher habitat would be managed to allow natural regeneration into suitable habitat as rapidly as possible. Areas where concentrations of brown-headed cowbirds occur on public lands in the Planning Area would be evaluated for ways to reduce cowbird concentration areas found. Land exchanges or disposals would be managed so that future developments would not adversely affect flows in the Virgin River. Riparian areas would be maintained in proper functioning condition. Actions that degrade riparian habitat or reduce the potential of the area to support riparian vegetation would be modified, restricted, or prohibited. The ACEC would be closed to OHV travel. The BLM and NPS would continue to maintain updated maps of SW willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, and western yellow-billed cuckoo habitat in the Planning Area.

The Kanab Creek ACEC would be designated at 13,146 acres for protection of the endangered SW willow flycatcher and riparian and scenic values. An ACEC plan would be developed for management of this species and associated riparian values consistent with the SW Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions, the following apply: No new corrals or water developments would be authorized or constructed within the ACEC boundary. The feasibility of relocating existing corrals or water developments outside the ACEC boundary would be considered. Livestock grazing would be closed during the growing season (bud break to leaf drop) and no later than April 15 on the Clearwater portions of the Kanab Creek and Wildband Allotments. [Note that the DEIS has a discrepancy here between grazing season of use restrictions for these areas as described under Grazing Management (MA-GM-11) and Special Status Species (MA-TE-80). The preferred alternative is as described in MA-GM-11.] Maximum utilization limits of 35% on key species would be implemented for suitable habitat within these areas. Stream bank alteration due to recreational activities and livestock grazing within the ACEC would be limited to 25% annually. BLM would continue to survey for SW willow flycatchers and maintain updated maps of their habitat in the Kanab Creek ACEC. The Kanab Creek ACEC would be inventoried for cultural resources.

Wild Burros: The herd management level for wild burros on the Parashant would remain at zero. Wild horses and burros would not be authorized on NPS lands.

Cultural Resources: Significant cultural resources would be conserved, protected, stabilized or restored and maintained in good or better condition. Specific information on ancestral and traditional cultural places (TCPs) would be protected and, where appropriate, interpreted. American Indians with cultural and historic ties to the Planning Area would have access to and use of sites allocated to traditional use. Public information would be provided only for those cultural sites designated for public use. Protective measures would be taken to preserve significant sites, such as monitoring through patrol, signing, fencing, data recovery to mitigate vandalism, and stabilizing undamaged deposits and at risk features. Inventories of cultural resources would continue. Properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would be nominated.

Four existing ACECs for protection of cultural resources and other special status plants would be modified as follows: **Johnson Spring ACEC** (2,058 acres), **Lost Spring Mountain ACEC** (17,743 acres), **Moonshine Ridge ACEC** (9,231 acres), **Marble Canyon ACEC** (9,852 acres) to better meet the needs of these sensitive resources. The **Shinarump ACEC** (3,619 acres) and **Lone Butte ACEC** (1,900 acres) would be designated to protect cultural resources. In addition to the standard ACEC management prescriptions described above (See special status species ACECs), the Little Black Mountain, Shinarump, and Lone Butte ACECs would be closed to OHV travel. The existing Nampaweap (535 acres) and Witch Pool (279 acres) ACECs on the Parashant

would be revoked since monument status provides for necessary protection of resources. An easement across state of Arizona lands from Quail Hill Road to **Little Black Mountain ACEC** would be acquired to provide legal access from the west.

Tribes would be consulted to determine limitations for use on sites allocated to Traditional Use areas. Fees would not apply on BLM lands to American Indians for the collection of non-commercial, personal use quantities of herbals, medicines, traditional use items, or items necessary for traditional, religious, or ceremonial purposes. Geocache sites would be prohibited in cultural sites.

Priority geographic and historic areas for new field inventory would include riparian first terrace locations, woodlands, and wilderness areas in all Planning Areas; the Shivwits Plateau on the Parashant; Paria Canyon, Paria Plateau, House Rock Valley, and areas with high concentrations of visitors on the Vermilion; and the vicinity of Johnson Springs, Shinarump Plateau, Lost Spring Mountain, Yellowstone Mesa, House Rock Valley, and current and potential high visitor use areas on the ASFO. The Grand Gulch Mine buildings, the Oak Grove Cabin, the Pine Well Ranch, Lower Kent Ranch, and other historic properties would be mapped, stabilized, signed, and interpreted as they are identified, documented, and evaluated.

The **Waring Ranch** NRHP listing would be broadened to encompass the entire Kelly Point ranching landscape (Waring Ranch to Kelly Point). Condition assessment and stabilization of outlying cultural resources would continue to be conducted. Development of **West Bench Pueblo** Public Use Site would be pursued and would include stabilization or rerouting of the current road through the site, data recovery efforts, construction of a trail, interpretive signs, and a small parking area for day use only. **“The Maze”** Rock art site would be developed with a backcountry access trail and off-site interpretive signing. The **Sun Valley Mine** Public Use Site would be developed for public use, including reconstruction of head frame, construction of a bat gate, and interpretive signing.

Visual Resources: The region’s scenic beauty, open space, landscapes, and other high quality visual resources would be maintained with the Planning Area. Existing cultural landscapes would be maintained. Night sky conditions that are affected primarily by natural light sources would be maintained. VRM classes would be assigned as follows to support management of the various designations, allocations and scenic or sensitive resources: On the Parashant (BLM and NPS lands): Class I - 287,470 acres; Class II - 501,191 acres; Class III - 259,644 acres; and Class IV - 12 acres. On the Vermilion: Class I - 89,829 acres; Class II - 203,850 acres; Class III - 0 acres; and Class IV - 12 acres. On the ASFO: Class I - 80,760 acres; Class II - 322,106 acres; Class III - 1,499,401 acres; and Class IV - 78,797 acres. Any areas designated as Wilderness or classified as “wild” as part of a national wild and scenic river designation during implementation of the plan would be reassigned to VRM Class I. Existing facilities or substantial existing visual contrasts would be brought into VRM class conformance as the need or opportunity arises. Ecosystem restoration projects may be allowed to temporarily exceed assigned VRM standards when the project would be essential for long term ecosystem health, public safety, or reduction of hazardous fuels buildups. Impacts to night sky would be prevented or reduced through the application of specific mitigation measures identified in activity level planning and NEPA level review.

Soundscapes: Natural quiet and natural sounds would be preserved or restored.

Wilderness Characteristics: Nearly 281,000 additional acres are identified to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics including naturalness, solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Areas managed for wilderness characteristics would be ecologically sustainable and resilient to natural and human-caused disturbances. The lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics are currently roadless areas and would remain so. Wildlife management activities would be consistent with naturalness in areas having wilderness characteristics.

Any changes to the characteristic landscape must be very low on 4,625 acres, low on 154,091 acres, could be moderate on 51,847 acres and high on 2 acres on the Parashant; very low on 50 acres, low on 35,968 acres, could be moderate on 0 acres and high on 0 acres on the Vermilion; and be very low on 132 acres, low on 34,252 acres, could be moderate on 30 acres and high on 1 acre on the ASFO. The BLM would seek to acquire non-Federal lands and interests in lands in areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics. Restoration,

vegetation treatments, and other surface disturbing actions could be authorized in areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics to achieve DFCs. On the Monuments, natural processes would be primarily relied on to restore, over time, locations where human imprints are found. When natural process would not restore areas within a reasonable timeframe or when resource damage would continue, a mix of chemical, biological, mechanical, and fire tools would be used consistent with DFCs. BLM would use minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) to manage fire in these areas. Motorized vehicle and mechanized transport use would only be allowed on designated routes. Use of non-motorized, wheeled game carriers to retrieve game kills would be allowed. Non-motorized competitive events could be authorized where wilderness characteristics would be maintained. New rights-of-way would not be authorized within areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics, though exceptions could be granted on BLM lands for communication sites necessary for public safety where no other suitable sites are available. Mineral leasing in areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics would be subject to standard stipulations. Mineral material sales would not be authorized in areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Lands/Realty: The Lands and Realty program would continue to respond to the needs of external and internal customers. All lands and interests in lands would be retained in federal ownership within National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) units (e.g., monuments, designated wilderness, national historic trails), administratively designated areas (e.g., Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)), areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics, eligible and suitable wild and scenic river segments, Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), designated or proposed critical habitat, and important riparian areas. The BLM would seek to acquire non-federal lands and interests in lands within the above-identified areas and legal access to landlocked public land from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation. BLM would also retain in federal ownership lands supporting listed or proposed species, except specific parcels of Category 3 desert tortoise habitat outside of ACECs that do not possess the primary constituent elements required for survival and recovery of the species. Approximately 200 acres in addition to those lands specifically identified for disposal would be retained in public ownership unless needed for recreation or public purposes (R&PP). Disposal proposals under the R&PP Act on lands not identified for disposal would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Those R&PP classifications that are no longer necessary would be terminated. Parcels where future development would likely result in appreciable reductions in groundwater flow into the Virgin River or Beaver Dam Wash would not be sold or exchanged. A study of groundwater hydrology or review of existing studies pertinent to the area would be required prior to sale or exchange. Up to 25,319 acres of public land would be available for exchange, sale, or R&PP lease/sale with NEPA and ESA compliance. This means that BLM could consider disposal of these lands. It does not mean that BLM will dispose of these lands. Most of the lands identified for disposal were carried forward from previous planning. None of the lands identified for disposal are within known critical habitat of special status species.

Individual land use authorizations (ROWs, permits, leases, easements) would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis on the ASFO. New land use authorizations would be discouraged within avoidance areas (i.e., ACECs, lands supporting listed species, national historic trails, riparian areas, and areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics) and allowed in such areas only when no reasonable alternative exists and impacts to these sensitive resources can be mitigated. New ROWs would be routed away from high-density listed species' populations and cultural sites, and along the edges of avoidance areas.

ROWs requiring new physical facilities at Mt. Logan, Hudson (West Point), Black Rock Mountain, and Fisher Point communication sites would not be allowed. Applications for new communication sites would be considered on a case-by-case basis with NEPA analysis, emphasizing co-location and subleasing of existing facilities. Point-of-Rock, Seegmiller Mountain, and Low Mountain would be designated as multi-user communication sites. Seegmiller Mountain would be the only site allowed for commercial broadcasting.

On the monuments, no new ROWs or ancillary facilities would be authorized, except ROWs pursuant to existing policies and practices and necessary for access to and/or maintenance of private or state inholdings. On BLM land in the monuments, ROWs may be authorized for access, communication site, utility, and maintenance purposes within the boundaries of existing compatible ROWs and where impacts would be negligible.

On BLM lands within the monuments and areas allocated to maintain wilderness characteristics, minimum impact permits would be evaluated and authorized on a case-by-case basis. Existing ROWs in BLM wilderness would be evaluated prior to expiration, and if still needed, would be authorized under 43 CFR 2920.

The unoccupied Lime Kiln Utility Corridor (Navajo McCullough power line to Nevada state line) would be terminated. The existing utility corridor beginning at the Glen Canyon Dam and ending at the Arizona/Nevada border as shown on the Western Utility Group priority corridor map would be designated one mile wide. The existing utility corridor shown on the Western Utility Group priority corridor map through Rosy Canyon would be designated beginning at the Utah/Arizona state line and extending to the Navajo McCullough power line, approximately ½ mile wide, confined to the valley bottom. Proposed rights-of-way within these corridors would require completion of site specific NEPA and ESA compliance. Development of renewable energy sources would be encouraged on public land including concentrating solar power, photovoltaics, wind, and biomass resources and technologies with NEPA and ESA compliance. Upon termination or expiration of the two Federal Energy Regulatory Commission withdrawals in Ferry Swale, ROWs to authorize the existing power transmission lines would be issued, if still needed.

Existing withdrawals would continue for as long as needed or as statutorily/legislatively established/mandated, including wilderness, monument, game preserve, power site reservation, reclamation, public water reserve, administrative site, and other miscellaneous withdrawals. Land ownership adjustments would not be considered on withdrawn lands unless or until the withdrawal has been modified or lifted. The following scenic and natural area withdrawals would be recommended for revocation/termination: the Vermilion Cliffs Natural Area, Nixon Spring Administrative Site, and hybrid oak withdrawals which are now within monuments; and part of the Virgin River Gorge Recreation Lands that overlaps statutory wilderness.

Public land would be made available for airport expansion at the existing Colorado City Airport in coordination with Colorado City officials, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Authorized airstrips on BLM lands (Colorado City, Cliff Dwellers, a portion of Mesquite, Pakoon, Imlay, and Whitmore-Bar Ten) would continue to be managed.

The BLM would work with ADOT to facilitate continued maintenance of existing drainage structures/areas inside the Vermilion and wilderness areas on the north side of Highway 89A. The BLM would work with the Washington County Water Conservancy District to determine the best route for the proposed water pipeline from Lake Powell to Sand Hollow Reservoir, Utah, and to authorize use of BLM land for that route and a portion of the proposed flood control reservoir at Fort Pearce in Utah. In Ferry Swale, the paved access road, previously used for access to the now closed Page Landfill, would remain in place. The city of Page would not be required to remove the pavement. The locked gate on Glen Canyon National Recreation Area would be removed to allow public access. Existing agricultural leases to Hafen and Hughes would continue.

BLM would continue to attempt to locate the potentially responsible party to remove/clean up any unauthorized use, restore/rehabilitate the public lands back to their original condition, and pay applicable fees.

Livestock Grazing: Grazing would continue throughout the majority of the Arizona Strip, including both National Monuments, on both BLM and NPS lands. All lands available for grazing would be managed so that they meet or are making significant progress towards meeting Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health. Livestock use and associated management would be consistent with protection of other resource needs and objectives. Monument values would be maintained, protected, and improved. The interdisciplinary allotment evaluation process would continue to be used to provide specific guidance and actions for managing livestock grazing. Existing AMPs and other activity plans would be consistent with achieving the DFCs and standards for rangeland health. The allotment management categorization process would continue to be used to define the level of management needed to properly administer livestock grazing according to management needs, resource conflicts, potential for improvement, and BLM funding/staffing constraints.

On NPS lands, (Parashant, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME), and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA)), areas open to livestock grazing would meet NPS Vital Sign standards. On NPS lands, livestock grazing would be administered within a range of variability which maintains Vital Sign resources in good condition or improving status. On NPS lands, implementation of standards and guides may be modified to ensure compliance with enabling legislation and applicable laws and policies.

On BLM lands, all allotments would continue to be classified as available for grazing by livestock under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, with the following exceptions:

The BLM portion of the **Parashant Allotment** would continue to be managed as a forage reserve. Under the forage reserve concept, any livestock use would be on a temporary basis. Livestock grazing use would be at BLM's discretion and would be designed to complement management of other resources and to provide rest and deferment on other allotments undergoing restoration treatments, areas with fire damage, or other actions that establish an AMP or livestock grazing system, and help stabilize the livestock industry. The NPS portion of the Parashant Allotment would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing.

The **Home Ranch Allotment** (NPS) would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing.

The **Tuweep Allotment** would be authorized for yearlong grazing as a forage reserve allotment. Livestock grazing would be on a temporary basis at BLM's discretion, consistent with achieving DFCs. BLM would assume maintenance of those facilities determined to be necessary for protection and management of resources, including existing water developments to ensure availability for wildlife use.

The **Tassi Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing to protect desert tortoise.

The portion of the **Mosby-Nay Allotment** within the Pakoon DWMA would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing to protect desert tortoise. That portion of the allotment outside the Pakoon DWMA would implement season of use and other management prescriptions consistent with achieving DFCs. Previously, this part of the allotment was open to year round grazing.

The portion of the **Pakoon Springs Allotment** within the Pakoon DWMA would continue to be unavailable for grazing to protect desert tortoise. That portion of the Pakoon Springs Allotment outside the Pakoon DWMA would be managed as a forage reserve for livestock grazing. Season of use and other management prescriptions consistent with achieving DFC's, would be established along with a management plan detailing specifics of grazing use. Under the forage reserve concept, any livestock use would be on a temporary basis and would be at BLM's discretion. Livestock grazing would be designed to complement management of desert tortoise habitat, and to provide rest and deferment on other allotments undergoing restoration treatments, areas with fire damage, or other actions that establish an AMP or livestock grazing system.

That portion of the **Pakoon Allotment** within the Pakoon DWMA (Grand Gulch Wash area) previously closed to grazing year round would be closed from March 15 through October 15 to protect desert tortoise. Livestock fencing would be installed at Eds' Pond to ensure success of the seasonal closure. Season of use for the remainder of the Pakoon Allotment would be October 15 through April 15. Ephemeral extensions could be authorized on the open portion of the Pakoon Allotment to June 1 when conditions outlined in Guideline 3-5, of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health are met.

The **Beaver Dam Confluence** of the **Littlefield Community Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for grazing.

The **Beaver Dam Slope Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing between March 15 and October 15 to protect desert tortoise. No ephemeral extensions would be authorized.

The **Highway Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing between March 15 and October 15 to protect desert tortoise. No ephemeral extensions would be authorized.

The **Mormon Well Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing between March 15 and October 15 to protect desert tortoise. No ephemeral extensions would be authorized.

The **Littlefield Slope Pasture** of the **Littlefield Community Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing between March 15 and October 15 to protect desert tortoise. No ephemeral extensions would be authorized. Season of use and other management prescriptions consistent with achieving DFC's, would be established, along with a management plan detailing specifics of grazing use, on the portions of the allotment outside the Littlefield Slope Pasture.

The **Littlefield Slope Pasture** of the **Mesquite Allotment** would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing between March 15 and October 15 to protect desert tortoise. No ephemeral extensions would be authorized. Season of use and other management prescriptions consistent with achieving DFC's, would be established, along with a management plan detailing specifics of grazing use, on the portions of the allotment outside the Littlefield Slope Pasture.

The **Cedar Wash Allotment** would be unavailable for livestock grazing from March 15 through October 15 to protect desert tortoise. Ephemeral extensions to May 15 would be authorized when conditions outlined in Guideline 3-5 of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health are met.

The **River Pasture** of the **Lees Ferry Allotment** would be closed to livestock grazing to eliminate conflicts between livestock grazing and recreation users.

The **Clearwater portion** of the **Kanab Creek Allotment** would be unavailable for grazing during the growing season (bud break to leaf drop). Monitoring would ensure compliance with utilization levels and to determine actual growing season and livestock grazing would not be authorized later than April 15. Conservative grazing guidelines would be used consistent with the SW willow flycatcher recovery plan.

The **Clearwater portion** of the **Wildband Allotment** would be open for grazing during the growing season (bud break to leaf drop). Monitoring would be used to ensure compliance with utilization levels and to determine actual growing season and livestock grazing would not be authorized later than April 15. Conservative grazing guidelines would be used consistent with the SW willow flycatcher recovery plan.

Changes in kind of livestock to sheep or goats would not be authorized within nine miles of desert bighorn sheep habitat. Sheep and goats would not be authorized as pack stock within nine miles of desert bighorn sheep habitat. Sheep or goats would not be authorized on NPS lands.

Minerals: On the ASFO, new reclamation stipulations for exploration and development plans directed toward maintaining naturalness and unique features and/or remoteness would be developed and would be applied to site-specific proposals. Special mitigation would be required in mining plans of operation to avoid impacts to cultural resources, special status species, and/or other sensitive resources in ACECs. Wilderness and National Monuments are closed to mineral entry NPS.

Minerals – Fluid Mineral Leasing: On the s, mining and oil and gas development would not occur. In the Arizona Strip Field Office, fluid mineral leasing categories would be designated as follows: Category 1 - 1,629,522 acres, open to lease subject to standard lease terms and conditions and appropriate special stipulations; Category 2 - 236,288 acres, open with special terms and conditions or seasonal restrictions; Category 3 - 34,336 acres, no surface occupancy or other surface disturbance; and, Category 4 - 80,870 acres, withdrawn from minerals leasing (See Map 3.28 in the DEIS). Desert tortoise ACECs would remain open to leasing subject to seasonal restrictions and a waivable no surface occupancy stipulation (WNSO). Surface disturbing activity would be limited to the period from October 15 to March 15. Surface occupancy could be allowed by BLM after consultation with the Service.

Minerals – Locatable Minerals: On the ASFO: 1,494,403 acres would be open to the operation of mining laws; 150,691 acres would be open with restrictions; 235,030 acres would be open with a plan of operation;

and 100,896 acres would be withdrawn to mining location subject to valid existing rights. (See Map 3.30 in the DEIS)

Minerals – Saleable Minerals: Mineral material removal would continue to be authorized on the ASFO, consistent with protection of sensitive resources and other DFCs. On the ASFO, 932,048 acres would be open subject to standard stipulations; 803,152 acres would be open with restrictions; and 245,822 acres would be closed to mineral material disposals. On the Monuments, existing material sites on BLM lands would continue to be used for BLM, NPS, and county road maintenance. New sites could be authorized on BLM lands, for BLM or county road maintenance, provided the use would be consistent with Plan objectives and protection of Monument objects. New mineral material sites would not be allowed in ACECs. Existing material sites would be evaluated for retention. Noncommercial, hand collection of rock within 100 feet of designated open roads in the Beaver Dam and Virgin Slope ACECs could continue.

Recreation: Recreation and visitor services would be managed to provide both structured and dispersed, unstructured recreation opportunities. Information on the availability of these recreational opportunities would be available to the public. Recreation opportunities in each travel management area (TMA) would be compatible with the protection of sensitive resources values. In general, the plan emphasizes remote, primitive opportunities in the more isolated, rugged areas of the Arizona Strip, while providing more accessible recreation opportunities closer to communities.

The DEIS identifies different types of recreation management areas that vary in the scope and intensity of management proposed. Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) target distinct, primary recreation-tourism markets and would be managed accordingly. (See Appendix 2-R of the DEIS for details). Management varies from providing close-to-town sustainable motorized access to remote, challenging, self-directed recreation. Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) are sub-units within SRMAs managed for distinctly different types of recreation. Areas not identified as SRMAs (1,792,341 acres on the ASFO) are considered Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) and receive less-intensive recreation management. ERMAs are essentially custodial management for visitor health and safety, user conflicts, or resource protection issues. RMAs (both Special and Extensive), accompanying RMZs within each SRMA, and NPS SMAs include:

Parashant SRMA/NPS SMA: The Parashant unit would be a combination of the BLM SRMA (839,237 acres) and the NPS SMA – (209,084 acres). The primary strategy for this SRMA/SMA would be to maintain the primarily undeveloped character of the area and to provide for compatible recreation opportunities. Two RMZs are included. The **Shivwits Frontier RMZ** (352,730 acres) would be managed for remote, sustainable motorized access, emphasizing visitor opportunities such as off-highway vehicles (limited to designated roads and trails), ATVs, motorcycles, camping hunting, primitive hiking, and scenic overlooks. The **Parashant Wildlands RMZ** (695,587 acres) would be managed for extreme, world class, deep wilderness trekking in remote and rugged settings, emphasizing hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, camping, canyoneering, and overlooks.

Gateways SRMA: The Gateways SRMA (814 acres) is located on the Vermilion and includes two RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the destination recreation tourism market through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **Vermilion Cliffs RMZ** (269 acres) would be managed for old scenic highway access, interpretation, short hiking trails, and interpretation of cultural and natural heritage. Activities emphasized would include visiting historic sites, viewing interpretive exhibits, viewing scenic vistas, walking and light hiking, photography, driving for pleasure, lodging, and participating in organized events. The **House Rock RMZ** (545 acres) would be managed for back road driving, roadside access for cultural and natural history appreciation and interpretation, and hiking trail access. Activities emphasized would include visiting historic sites, viewing interpretive exhibits, viewing scenic vistas, viewing California condors, hiking, and photography.

Sand Hills SRMA: The Sand Hills SRMA (265,109 acres) is located on the Vermilion and includes two RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to maintain the primarily undeveloped character of the area and to provide for compatible recreation opportunities. The **Uplands RMZ** (197,031 acres) would be managed for close-to-town sustainable motorized access for scenic, natural, open-space appreciation,

and departure for self-directed, primitive-mode challenge and exploration recreation adventure. Activities emphasized would include hiking and scrambling, canyoneering, rock climbing, photography, viewing scenic vistas, and off-highway vehicle driving. The **Cliffs and Rims RMZ** (68,078 acres) would be managed for old scenic highway access, interpretation, short hiking trails, and interpretation of cultural and natural heritage. Activities emphasized would include visiting historic sites, viewing interpretive exhibits, viewing scenic vistas, walking and light hiking, photography, driving for pleasure, lodging, and participating in organized events.

Paria SRMA: The Paria SRMA (27,741 acres) is also located on the Vermilion and includes two RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the destination recreation tourism market through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **Coyote Buttes RMZ** (14,576 acres) would be managed for unique, world-class primitive adventure recreation viewing unique upland geologic features. Activities emphasized would include hiking and scrambling; outdoor photography; viewing scenic vistas; wilderness exploration. The **Paria Canyon RMZ** (13,165 acres) would be managed for world-class wilderness trekking adventure viewing deeply entrenched slick rock canyon and associated slot canyon features. Activities emphasized would include hiking and scrambling; backpacking; canyoneering; hunting; outdoor photography; camping, viewing scenic vistas, viewing cultural sites, wilderness exploration.

St. George Basin SRMA: The St. George Basin SRMA (141,024 acres) is located on the ASFO and includes two RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the recreation tourism market demand in the surrounding communities through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **St. George Basin Rural Park RMZ** (104,113 acres) would be managed for quick, easy access from town to sustainable day-use adventure, challenge, exercise, social, and outdoor recreation. Activities emphasized would include OHV driving, ATV and motorcycle riding, rock climbing, rock crawling, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, vehicle exploring, participating in and/or viewing competitive/organized events, radio-control aircraft, fitness activity (i.e., walking, running). The **Canyons and Mesas RMZ** (36,911 acres) would be managed for quick, easy access from town to self-directed primitive-mode recreation adventure, challenge, exploration in rugged, natural terrain. Activities emphasized would include hiking, hunting; outdoor photography; viewing nature, sightseeing.

Virgin River SRMA: The Virgin River SRMA (4,955 acres) is located on the ASFO and includes three RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the destination recreation tourism market through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **Virgin River RMZ** (1,788 acres) would be managed for white-water and climbing adventures recreation amidst rugged and stunning geologic features. Activities emphasized would include kayaking, river floating, water play, viewing wildlife, geology, rock climbing, hiking. The **Virgin River Gorge Scenic Gateway RMZ** (135 acres) would be managed for self-sustaining, recreation gateway nestled within a 'Grand Canyon-like' landscape. Activities emphasized would include camping, picnicking, roadside rest, water play, nature study, viewing geology, hiking/walking, viewing education presentations. The **Motorways RMZ** (3,033 acres) would be managed for respites for travelers at pull-out sites along primary highways. Activities emphasized would include viewing Geology, viewing wildlife, view riverine resources.

Virgin Ridge SRMA: The Virgin Ridge SRMA (23,033 acres) is located on the ASFO and also includes three RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the recreation tourism market demand in the surrounding communities through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **Lime Kiln/Elbow Canyons RMZ** (7,684 acres) would be managed for close-to-home sustainable motorized adventure for scenic, natural and historic appreciation. Activities emphasized would include off-highway vehicle, ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike riding, primitive camping, hunting, hiking. The **Lime Kiln Cliffs RMZ** (1,746 acres) would be managed for easy, quick access from town to sustainable world class rock climbing in natural settings. Activities emphasized would include climbing, primitive camping, photography, guided climbing. The **Virgin Ridge RMZ** (13,604 acres) would be managed for easy access from town to self-directed primitive-mode recreation adventure, challenge, exploration in rugged, natural terrain. Activities emphasized would include hiking, backpacking, hunting, primitive camping, photography.

Fredonia SRMA: The Fredonia SRMA (15,932 acres) is located on the ASFO and includes three RMZs. The primary strategy for this SRMA would be to target the recreation tourism market demand in the surrounding communities through maintenance of resource settings and condition. The **Fredonia Rural Park RMZ** (6,816 acres) would be managed for quick, easy access from town to sustainable day-use adventure, challenge, exercise, social, and outdoor recreation. Activities emphasized would include OHV driving, ATV and motorcycle riding, rock crawling, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, vehicle exploring, participating in and/or viewing competitive/organized events, radio-control aircraft, fitness activity (i.e., walking, running), BMX riding, target shooting. The **Shinarump Cliffs RMZ** (3,965 acres) would be managed for close-to-home sustainable motorized adventure for scenic, natural and historic appreciation. Activities emphasized would include off-highway vehicle; ATV, motorcycle; mountain bike riding; primitive camping; hunting; primitive hiking. The **Badlands RMZ** (5,151 acres) would be managed for quick, easy access from town to self-directed primitive-mode recreation adventure, challenge, exploration in rugged, natural terrain. Activities emphasized would include hiking, hunting; outdoor photography; viewing scenic vistas.

Vegetation treatments could be used restore and/or maintain the natural or “remote” settings in Backroads and Outback Management Units using a combination of projects and natural processes. Management Units are discussed in detail at the beginning of this summary of the preferred alternative.

Visitor limits, regulations, or restrictions could be instituted and/or adjusted when monitoring of resource and social conditions indicate a trend toward unacceptable resource and social changes. Visitor limits, supplemental rules, or restrictions would be based on a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) framework. Visitor carrying capacities may be established as wilderness management plans and activity plans are completed. Sensitive areas where increased visitation could create unacceptable changes or impacts to natural or cultural resources would not be publicly promoted.

Special recreation permits (SRPs) would continue to be required for all commercial events/activities, special area use, and vending. In addition, competitive and organized group events/activities may require an SRP at BLM’s discretion. Recreation activities requiring use authorization could be limited in listed species and other sensitive habitats. Commercial services in designated or proposed wilderness should meet guidelines for commercial activities within wilderness. No competitive events would be authorized in ACECs, wilderness, or NPS proposed wilderness. No motorized speed events would be authorized on the s. Commercial operations may be permitted on the Parashant Monument in compliance with management objectives and other plan provisions. The current special area permit and fee requirements for Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, Wire Pass, and Coyote Buttes could continue, where consistent with meeting desired resource and social objectives. Commercial SRPs would be considered on a case-by-case basis in Coyote Buttes North. Current recreation use permit and fee program required for use in the Virgin Gorge Recreation Area would continue, where consistent with meeting desired resource and social objectives.

No competitive events would be authorized in ACECs, wilderness, or NPS proposed wilderness. No motorized speed events would be authorized in the Monuments. Motorized speed events would only be authorized in the motorized speed event area in the St. George Basin and would be limited to 300 entrants.

Major visitor facilities (e.g. visitor center or contact stations) could be constructed in all Planning Areas as part in collaboration with local communities. Facility development and maintenance would be limited in listed species and other sensitive habitats. Facilities would be appropriate to management unit goals. Minor new facilities (i.e. toilets, information kiosks, directional signs, fire pits) could be developed where resources and values would be protected. Sign material and design would be unobtrusive to blend with local landscape settings and retain the natural and/or historic integrity of the site. Generally, signing in the ERMA would be the minimum necessary to provide for public safety and information or when minimum necessary to control unauthorized use. The major emphasis areas for signing and/or recreation facility placement in the Arizona Strip FO would be in the Rural and Backways Travel Management Areas (TMAs). A sign plan for each Planning Area that addresses present and future needs involving road information, interpretation, and public safety would be written.

Camping on BLM lands is limited to no more than 14 consecutive days in any 28-day period. Extensions could be authorized for permitted uses on a case-by-case basis. Persons occupying a regular campsite within the Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area are exempt from this rule. Camping areas may be closed to occupancy to protect resources, for public safety, or for other administrative purposes. Camping could be limited or restricted to protect cultural resources, special status species and their habitats, and/or other natural resources. On the Monuments, vehicle camping along designated routes would be allowed in existing sites or disturbed areas only. Non-motorized, dispersed camping on the Monuments would be allowed, except in the Coyote Buttes Fee Area. The current group sizes and visitor use limits required for use in Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, Wire Pass, and Coyote Buttes could continue, subject to adaptive management. On the ASFO dispersed camping would be allowed, though in developed campgrounds, camping is limited to designated campsites only.

On the Monuments, recreational collecting of resources, such as rocks, mineral specimens, petrified wood, fossils, or plants would be prohibited. Collection of dead and down wood for campfires would be allowed, subject to fire restrictions. On BLM lands, collection of antlers or other unregulated animal parts would be allowed. Recreational shooting would be allowed on BLM lands throughout the Planning Area, except where public health is jeopardized and subject to state and local laws. On the ASFO, collecting petrified wood for personal use is allowed, up to 25 pounds per person per day (plus one piece of petrified wood) up to a total of 250 pounds per person per year. The recreational collecting of plants and dead and down firewood would be allowed.

All recreational and commercial horseback riding and pack stock use would continue to be prohibited in Coyote Buttes. Commercial use of horses and pack stock would continue to be prohibited in Paria Canyon upstream from Bush Head Canyon. Certified weed-free feed would be required for all recreation stock use. Recreational stock use could be limited in listed species and other sensitive habitats or in the vicinity of cultural properties. Annual training would be provided to outfitters and guides concerning appropriate use ethics.

Geocache sites would be prohibited in archeological sites, alcoves, rock shelters, threatened and endangered species habitat, and raptor nesting sites or where identified Monument objects would be at risk. Geocache sites may be relocated if determined that important resources would be at risk. Where geocaches are allowed, they could remain so long as acceptable resource and social conditions would be maintained. On-the-ground placement of geocaches would be prohibited in designated and NPS proposed wilderness areas.

Outreach efforts would be established, such as field institutes or elder hostels to focus on interpretive and environmental educational niches not previously addressed. Visitors would be provided with environmental educational opportunities that are appropriate to the management unit, allowing them to experience the challenges that are presented when visiting remote areas. A comprehensive interpretive plan (CIP) that meets the needs of the BLM and NPS would be completed, creating a long-range vision and basis for decision-making related to interpretation and education of the Parashant.

Trails and Travel Management: A trails and travel management system would be developed that contributes to protection of sensitive resource, promotes dispersed recreation, and minimizes user conflicts. Travel management decisions include identification of areas that are open, limited, or closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use, and individual routes (roads and trails). Both Monuments and portions of the ASFO underwent an extensive route evaluation process that identified which routes would remain open and which would be recommended to be closed. In most cases, routes that provide access to existing facilities and improvement projects would remain open or would be limited to authorized users. Those routes proposed for closure or open with restrictions were recommended to protect special status species and/or their habitats, cultural resources, or to reduce route redundancy. Those portions of the ASFO where the route evaluation was deferred until after completion of the planning process requires vehicles to stay on designated routes. The exceptions are the existing BLM Designated Wilderness Areas and NPS Proposed Wilderness, which are closed to vehicle travel.

All Planning Areas: The motor vehicle registration requirement would not apply on lands under BLM jurisdiction to all-terrain vehicles or an off-road recreational motor vehicle operating on a dirt road in an unincorporated. Motorized, mechanized, or non-motorized/non-mechanized use of routes that are potentially

designated as “limited” would be restricted to the specific users, seasons, or vehicle types as identified on a route-by-route evaluation and designation. Use of administrative routes would be subject to the terms of an appropriate authorization, such as ROW, permit, lease, maintenance agreement, or transportation plan that specifies the authorized administrative user, routes, destinations, potential frequencies, and acceptable levels and types of route maintenance. Motorized or mechanized use of administrative routes in “closed” areas would be the minimum necessary for the administration of the area or the exercise of the right or permitted use. Installations/structures (e.g., unobtrusive barriers, gates, signs) on or along routes would be allowed when they would be the minimum necessary to control unauthorized use and when consistent with TMA objectives. Roads causing resource damage or with safety concerns could be rerouted and/or reclaimed. Rehabilitation of closed routes would only occur after completion of NEPA, ESA, and Section 106. Newly constructed (i.e., temporary) access would be reclaimed after termination of the specific need. No new roads would be allowed in BLM designated wilderness areas (265,869 acres) or on NPS lands (188,121 acres). Roads closed or authorized for administrative use only may be designated as trails for non-motorized public use.

A trails and travel management plan would be developed and maintained that supports resource protection and uses identified in this Plan. A route inventory database would be maintained using standard collection and information storage methods. The areas would be monitored to detect unauthorized route creation. Routes created by unauthorized use would be immediately obscured and rehabilitated.

Monuments: All vehicular travel in the Monuments would be allowed only on designated routes. No areas would be authorized for cross-country, off-road vehicular use except for authorized administrative and emergency purposes. In areas allocated as “limited” in the Monuments and along national trails, motorized use would keep within the designated route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside. An emergency closure could be implemented, at management discretion, to protect Monument objects. Use of non-motorized, wheeled game carriers to retrieve game kills would be allowed in all areas of the Monument except designated and NPS proposed wilderness. On NPS lands, designated routes would be cherry-stemmed thru proposed wilderness. Routes identified for administrative use only would allow only the minimum motorized or mechanized use necessary for the administration of the area or the exercise of the right or permitted use. On roads adjacent to NPS proposed wilderness, visitors could park only in currently existing disturbed areas within the wilderness boundary setback. New routes on BLM lands, once constructed, would become part of the designated transportation system; closed routes would be removed from the transportation plan.

Existing material sites on BLM lands would continue to be used for BLM, NPS, and county road maintenance. New sites could be authorized on BLM lands provided the use would be consistent with plan objectives and protection of Monument objects. Route maintenance would occur within standard widths based on route type. Widening, passing lanes, realignments, or travel surface upgrades could occur if: protection and/or enhancement of Monument objects would be ensured, they would be needed to achieve route standards, and/or they would be needed for public safety. Trail construction (non-motorized) would occur to support protection and/or enhancement of Monument objects and/or ensure public safety and recreation opportunities and benefits.

Parashant: On BLM and NPS lands, 283,616 acres would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use (including BLM designated wilderness and NPS proposed wilderness), motorized and mechanized vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails on 764,744 acres. No open areas would be designated in the Monument. The following individual route designations were proposed: 1,397 miles of routes would remain open, 185 miles would be open for administrative use only, and 191 miles would be closed.

Existing roads would be closed and rehabilitated where public or administrative needs cease to exist or where there would be unacceptable impacts to resources/Monument objects. New permanent routes would not be constructed adjacent to or within designated wilderness or NPS proposed wilderness. On NPS lands, travel corridors would be restricted to existing routes established according to the Lake Mead NRA GMP (1986). New permanent motorized route construction on BLM lands would be the minimum necessary to achieve Plan provisions and to enhance recreation opportunities and benefits if protection and/or enhancement of Monument objects would be ensured. However, new permanent roads would not be constructed on 226,394 acres of areas allocated for wilderness characteristics. On NPS lands, routes would be maintained only within the existing

disturbed travel surface. If needed for resource protection and/or visitor safety, minor modifications outside of existing corridors may occur with appropriate documentation and compliance.

Vermilion: On the Vermilion, 89,828 acres would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use (including designated wilderness), motorized and mechanized vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails on 203,859 acres. No open areas would be designated in the Monument. The following individual route designations were proposed: 384 miles would remain open, 66 miles would be open for administrative use only, and 102 miles would be closed.

New permanent motorized route construction would be the minimum necessary to achieve plan provisions and to enhance recreation opportunities and benefits if protection and/or enhancement of Monument objects would be ensured.

ASFO: On the ASFO, 92,775 acres would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use (including designated wilderness and the Marble Canyon ACEC), and 1,888,154 acres would be limited to designated roads and trails on. Motorized and mechanized vehicle use would be open on 7,180 acres of BLM land, where vehicles would be allowed to travel off-route. This would include one larger area south of St. George and one small area south of Fredonia. No sensitive resources were identified in these areas. Of the nearly 1,000 miles of routes inventoried on the Arizona Strip Field Office, up to about 100 miles could be closed. Route inventories for the ASFO would be completed. Prior to completion, a preliminary route network would be based on existing routes in the Colorado City, Main Street, Uinkaret, Yellowstone Mesa, Kanab Plateau, Grama Canyon, Buckskin, White Sage, House Rock sub-regions, as documented by the combination of completed route inventory and 2002 aerial photography. Existing trails and travel route locations, types, conditions, and maintenance levels for a preliminary route network would be maintained until formal route designations would be completed.

On the ASFO, existing trails and travel route locations, types, conditions, and maintenance levels for a preliminary route network would be maintained until formal route designations would be completed. All cross-country motorized or mechanized travel would be prohibited, with the following exceptions: any designated open OHV areas, minimum necessary for administration of the area, for emergency purposes, and/or minimum necessary for the exercise of a valid existing right or authorized use. New routes and road/trail rights-of-way (ROWs), once authorized, would become part of the designated transportation system; closed routes would be removed from the transportation plan. Use of non-motorized, mechanized vehicles (including bicycles) would be prohibited off the transportation system in ACECs designated for cultural or listed species values and in designated wilderness. In ACECs, some rerouting of existing roads may occur, criteria must be met for modifications to existing roads, establishment of new permanent roads and/or upgrades may be restricted, speed limits may apply. In areas allocated as "limited," motorized-vehicles may be allowed to pull off a designated route 100 feet either side of centerline. New permanent motorized route construction on BLM lands would be the minimum necessary to achieve plan provisions. Route maintenance would occur within standard widths based on route type. Widening, passing lanes, realignments, or travel surface upgrades could occur if needed to achieve route standards, be consistent with TMAs, or for public safety. Trail construction (non-motorized) would occur to support public use.

The DEIS identifies travel management areas (TMAs) as a tool for evaluating what types of actions could occur within these areas. The four TMA categories range from Primitive, which includes large areas with no routes and areas with low densities of tertiary (primitive) roads, to Rural, which provides for the widest variety of motorized and non-motorized access. Combined with other tools such as VRM, managers would use TMA guidance in determining the types and appearance of new facilities, as well as where and how the building of new roads, or altering or upgrading of existing roads, would be authorized. TMAs are described as follows:

The **Rural TMA** would provide the widest variety of motorized, non-motorized, and mechanical access to serve existing and future needs, but not to the detriment or exclusion of the protection of resources. It would also facilitate linking existing and future regional trail and road corridors to local communities. Natural-appearing landscapes could be moderately to substantially modified to enhance and direct recreation opportunities, support community needs and resource uses, or provide for public safety. Modification should

complement visual elements of the surrounding landscape. Trail and travel management system routes would generally be managed at the highest maintenance levels and frequencies. Public facilities for intensified motorized use and parking would be available.

The **Backways TMA** would provide a variety of motorized, non-motorized, and mechanical access to serve existing and future needs, but not to the detriment or exclusion of the protection of resources. It would also supply the primary travel routes that would provide public access from communities to the more remote and semi-primitive TMAs. The primary focus for these areas would be to provide and maintain access, visitor controls, and facilities appropriate for resource and visitor use and protection. Predominantly natural-appearing landscapes would be common, with some modifications to the landscape occurring to enhance recreation activities, maintain vegetation cover and soil for resource protection and use, or for public safety. Such modifications would usually blend with the surrounding landscape. Basic public access-related facilities, such as waysides, trailheads, and overlooks would focus on resource protection, visitor safety, and education of visitors about resources. These facilities would be rustic, providing for a variety of user types, and focused on hardening sites to reduce impacts to important resources. Trail and travel management system routes would generally be managed at the highest maintenance levels and frequencies.

The **Specialized TMA** would provide a variety of motorized, non-motorized, and mechanical access to serve existing and future access needs in remote, rustic settings, but not to the detriment or exclusion of the protection of resources. It would be characterized by low to moderate densities of secondary and tertiary route corridors that would provide public access from Backways corridors to the more remote Primitive TMAs. The primary focus for this area would be to maintain basic access, visitor controls, and facilities necessary for resource use and protection. Rustic and rudimentary public and administrative facilities would be rare and provided only where essential for protection of important resources or public safety. Predominantly natural or natural-appearing landscapes of moderate to large size would be common, with some modifications to the landscape occurring for resource protection and use, to direct human use, or for public safety, but tempered by the need to protect important resources. Trail and travel management system routes would generally be managed at low to moderate maintenance levels and frequencies.

The **Primitive TMA** would provide adequate, but limited motorized access to serve existing and future access needs and non-motorized, non-mechanized access to serve existing and future recreational access needs in the most remote, rustic settings, for the enhancement and protection of important resource values. It would range from large areas containing no routes to areas characterized by low densities of tertiary access routes that would provide administrative access to authorized management facilities. The primary focus for this area would be to maintain or enhance primitive conditions while providing for administrative motorized/mechanized access. Rustic and rudimentary administrative facilities would be rare and provided only where they would be essential for protection of important resources or public safety. The lowest level of landscape modification, characterized by essentially natural or natural-appearing landscapes of moderate to large size, would predominate. Some modifications to the landscape could occur for resource protection or use, or for the enhancement of important resources. Routes for occasional administrative uses would generally be managed at the lowest maintenance levels and frequencies.

Travel Management Areas (TMAs) would be identified as follows: on the Parashant: Backways - 90,934 acres (9%), Specialized - 249,537 acres (24%), and Primitive - 707,846 acres (67%); on the Vermilion: Rural - 27 acres (>1%), Backways - 5,829 acres (2%), Specialized - 90,324 acres (31%), and Primitive - 197,508 acres (67%); and on the ASFO: Rural - 227,584 acres (11%), Backways - 274,636 acres (14%), Specialized - 796,341 acres (40%), and Primitive - 682,504 acres (35%).

Special Area Designations - Wilderness: Currently there are 265,868 acres of BLM designated wilderness, and 188,121 acres of NPS proposed wilderness, with no wilderness study areas (WSAs) on the Arizona Strip. No new wilderness areas are recommended. DFCs for Congressionally designated wilderness (BLM) and proposed wilderness (NPS) would include providing for the long-term protection and preservation of the areas' wilderness character under a principle of non-degradation. The natural condition; opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation; as well as any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific,

educational, scenic, or historical value would be managed so that they would remain unimpaired. The wilderness resource would be a dominant factor in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of wilderness character and visitor use.

All motorized vehicles, motorized equipment, aircraft landing, and other forms of mechanical transport (including mountain bikes and wheeled game carriers) would be prohibited. Exceptions may be authorized when it is necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area, required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the areas, or for the exercise of a private existing right or other special provision. A monitoring program would be developed to assess the condition and long-term trends of wilderness resources and provide a basis for future management actions. Existing BLM wilderness management plans would be evaluated and amended where necessary to conform to new management direction where appropriate, such as Monument proclamations, DFCs, or listed species recovery plans. Trail resources (natural, cultural, and historical) would be identified, recorded, and protected on federal land.

Lands within BLM wilderness areas and NPS proposed wilderness could be restored where ecological integrity is outside the range of natural variability and where compatible with wilderness objectives. Restoration plans may be required. The tools, equipment, or structures used in implementing projects would be the ones that least degrade wilderness values temporarily or permanently. The Minimum Requirement Decision Guide would be used, giving greatest weight to accomplishing objectives using natural processes and non-mechanized/non-motorized means. Minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) would be used for managing fire. Prescribed fire and fire use would be used specific areas classified for their use.

Parashant: NPS proposed wilderness would be as described and delineated in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area 1979 Wilderness Proposal. Proposed wilderness would continue to be managed as designated wilderness, allowing no actions that would diminish its wilderness characteristics until the legislative process of wilderness designation has been completed. Subsurface mineral rights would be acquired from willing sellers on NPS lands where NPS manages the surface estate.

Vermilion: Existing Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes visitor use management prescriptions for the Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes permit area could be modified as needed to facilitate changes in visitor use management that may result from the evaluation of monitoring data.

Special Area Designations – Wild and Scenic Rivers: The Paria and Virgin Rivers within the Planning Area have been determined to be eligible and suitable for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SR). Implementation of the recommendations for Paria River and Virgin River would continue the protective status (interim management) associated with the eligibility findings defined in the AZ Strip District RMP until Congress makes a decision about W&SR designations. Until Congress acts to designate or release from further consideration rivers determined to be eligible and suitable, the viability of these rivers as wild and scenic candidates would be ensured through implementation of interim management policy. This would include preservation of the stream's free-flowing nature; preservation, protection, and, to the greatest extent practicable, enhancement of identified outstandingly remarkable values; and preservation of characteristics that establish the potential classifications as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. Should either one or both rivers be released from further consideration by Congress, those lands would be managed by the BLM using the goals, guidance and prescriptions described for the corresponding Management Unit.

The **Paria River**, including the portion through the Glen Canyon Recreation Area to the confluence of the Colorado River, would continue to be tentatively classified as Wild and Scenic and recommended for designation as wild. Developed campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters within the river corridor would continue to be prohibited. Simple comfort and convenience facilities could be permitted. New transmission lines, natural gas lines, and water lines would not be authorized. Woodcutting would not be permitted except when needed to clear trails, for visitor safety, or to control fire. Livestock grazing would continue to be managed to protect outstandingly remarkable. Instream flows would continue to be quantified and protected. No new hydroelectric power facilities, flood control or water supply dams, levees, major diversions, or other water works would be permitted. Construction of new roads or trails for motorized travel would continue to be prohibited.

The **Virgin River** would retain its recommendation for designation as a Study River and retain its tentative classification as wild from the Utah state line to the first I-15 bridge; scenic from the I-15 bridge to the Virgin River Campground; and recreational from the campground to the Nevada state line. Potential actions that may affect Virgin River wild and scenic values would be subject to interim protection. Management activities would not be allowed to damage the existing eligibility, classification, or suitability. The free-flowing characteristics of the river segment cannot be modified.

Special Area Designations – National Historic Trails: DFCs for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (NHT) would include protecting high-potential NHT segments and historic sites from over-use, inappropriate use, and vandalism. The viability of NHT resources for comprehensive planning would be ensured by using the interim provisions of the DEIS until a Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS is completed.

The BLM would develop and provide interpretive and educational materials about the Old Spanish NHT and NHT system to promote education about the trail. Viewsheds from significant trail segments would be maintained. Existing routes that may adversely affect these resources may be limited or closed. A management plan would be developed prior to allowing recreational development of the trail. High-potential sites or high-potential route segments resources on public lands

Special Area Designations – ACECs: The preferred alternative adds five new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to the nine already existing in the Arizona Strip Field Office. This would bring the total acres of ACECs to 158,398 in the Arizona Strip Field Office. ACECs are areas where special management attention is required to protect a particular resource or process, such as sensitive plant or wildlife habitat, cultural sites, etc. Three ACECs from the Parashant, the Pakoon ACEC for protection of desert tortoise and Mojave Desert values, and the Nampaweap and Witch Pool ACECs for protection of cultural resources, would be revoked. These areas are afforded more protective management under the Monument Proclamation than they would under an ACEC designation. There are no existing ACECs in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. ACECs would be designated as described in Table 1.

The size of each ACECs was designed to protect as much of the sensitive resource as possible without placing unnecessary restrictions on adjacent public lands. Increases in the size of an ACEC were proposed where individuals, populations, or habitat areas of the sensitive resource were not previously included within the ACECs boundary. In addition, buffer areas were added to special status plant ACECs to minimize disturbance from adjacent roaded areas. Decreases in ACEC acreage were due to removal of areas where repeated surveys indicated the sensitive resource was not present.

To be designated as an ACEC, an area must meet the relevance and importance criteria provide in BLM Manual 1613 (1988) and require special management to protect and prevent irreparable damage to resource values. Three ACECs were proposed for protection of special status plants; the Twist Hills and Clayhole ACECs for Fickeisen plains cactus and the Buckskin ACEC for Gierisch mallow. All three met the relevance and importance criteria, but were found not to require special management beyond what was already provided in the RMP. As a result, these ACECs were not brought forward in the preferred alternative.

TABLE 1. Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern			
RESOURCE VALUE	ACEC NAME	ORIGINAL SIZE	PROPOSED SIZE
Siler pincushion cactus	Johnson Spring ACEC	2,464 acres	2,058 acres
	Lost Spring Mountain ACEC	8,261 acres	17,743 acres
	Moonshine Ridge ACEC	5,095 acres	9,231 acres
	Fort Pearce ACEC	916 acres	5,498 acres
Brady pincushion cactus	Marble Canyon ACEC	11,011 acres	9,852 acres
Jones cycladenia	Lone Butte ACEC	0 acres	1,900 acres
Holmgren milkvetch	Black Knolls ACEC	0 acres	80 acres
Paradine plains cactus	Coyote Valley ACEC	0 acres	776 acres
Desert tortoise	Beaver Dam Slope ACEC	51,197 acres	51,984 acres
	Virgin Slope ACEC	39,931 acres	40,287 acres

TABLE 1. Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern			
RESOURCE VALUE	ACEC NAME	ORIGINAL SIZE	PROPOSED SIZE
	Pakoon ACEC	76,014 acres	0 acres
	Virgin River Corridor ACEC*	8,075 acres	*
Woundfin Virgin chub	Virgin River Corridor ACEC*	8,075 acres	2,063 acres
SW willow flycatcher	Kanab Creek ACEC	0 acres	13,146 acres
Cultural Resources	Little Black Mountain ACEC	241 acres	241 acres
	Johnson Spring ACEC	2,464 acres	2,058 acres
	Lost Spring Mountain ACEC	8,261 acres	17,743 acres
	Moonshine Ridge ACEC	5,095 acres	9,231 acres
	Shinarump ACEC	0 acres	3,619 acres
	Lone Butte ACEC	0 acres	1,900 acres
	Nampawep ACEC	535 ac	0 ac
	Witch Pool ACEC	279 ac	0 ac

* The boundaries of the Virgin River Corridor ACEC were modified to follow the 100-year floodplain in the Virgin River. As a result, desert tortoise habitat was excluded from this ACEC and incorporated into the Beaver Dam and Virgin Slope ACECs.

Special Area Designations – RCAs: The Planning Area includes three existing Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs) designated with the 1992 RMP. Under the preferred alternative, two RCAs designations on the Parashant, the Mt. Trumbull (102,307 acres) and Parashant RCAs (39,868 acres), would be revoked because the Monument provides adequate protection of resources. Similarly, the Canyons/Plateaus of the Paria RCA (293,689 acres) designation on the Vermilion would be also be revoked for the same reason.

Public Health and Safety: Hazardous sites or locations that affect or could affect public health or safety would be inventoried and monitored. Areas known to have hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, or solid wastes, including abandoned mine lands, would be cleaned up, restored, or corrected. Public access to abandoned mine and well sites would be controlled by providing warning signage and barriers. On BLM lands, recreational shooting would be allowed within the context of the law. Recreational shooting would not be authorized on NPS lands.

Scientific Research: Permits would be required for approved scientific research to insure compatibility and reporting of results. The collection of any objects in the Monuments would not be authorized except by permit for scientific research or use.